



The Ground Plane

SOUTH BAY
AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION /
ARRL MEMBER CLUB
SINCE 1974



Volume 1 Edition 4

April, 2000

Ham Trivia

What are the upper and lower ends of 20 Meters for General Class License holders?

What is the Maximum Output Power on 30 Meters?

What is the National Calling Frequency on 144Mhz SSB or CW?

To successfully obtain a General, or Extra Class license, What is the "required" Code Speed in WPM effective 4/15/2000?

Enjoy these Ham Trivia Questions? Read the Ground-Plane each month for exciting topics. Answers to Questions coming in May!

President's Message

by Rudi Wiedemann - KF6RLQ

With all the great programs and workshops, we're off to a good start on the year.

The next club improvement that has been suggested is to 'streamline' the monthly meetings and maybe spice them up a bit. Sooooo, we're moving more of the 'business' stuff to the Ground Plane. We're also starting a monthly

'TNT' revs up the monthly meetings

"Tinker 'N Trader" (TNT) table. This will be set up in back near the snacks (seems to get good traffic there for some reason). The idea is for you to bring your latest cool project, or item for sale / trade. During the break you can stand at the table and explain your handiwork, or dicker on a deal for your stuff. If you bring in something particularly interesting, we'll give you 10

minutes to demo it to the attendees. This is a great way to drum up interest in your favorite area of ham radio! Remember though, what comes in must get hauled back out again by someone, anyone!

If you have any other ideas to make SBARA more exciting and responsive to its members, please join our next Board meeting at my house at 7:30pm the Tuesday PRIOR (every 2nd Tuesday) to each monthly meeting. See you at the next SBARA event!

Rudi Wiedemann - KF6RLQ

REMINDER

SBARA Board Meetings are at 7:30PM on the tuesday prior to the General Club Meetings. Feel free to join us at rudi wiedemann's home.

April Program: "T-Hunting"

by Al Rendon - WT6K

Don't miss the fun at the April 19, 2000 SBARA meeting. Syd Furman W6QWK will be leading a transmitter hunting presentation and follow-on transmitter hunt in Central Park for everyone in attendance. The

presentation will stress the concepts, equipment and different methods of T-hunting while the T-hunts will give practical experience to those who participate. Syd and friends plan to have two hunts.

This Month in the GroundPlane

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"T-Hunting" with Syd Furman (continued from page 1)

One for participants that are new to T-Hunting and one for participants that have been on a T-Hunt before. Transmitter hunting skills are becoming more and more important in locating and reporting 'jammers' and in helping hams 'self-police' the amateur radio frequency spectrum.

If you have ever wondered what it is like to go on a T-hunt, do not miss this opportunity on April 19th to be on a hunt with the SBARA experts. Bring your 2-meter HT with fully charged battery and a flashlight. That is all that will be required for you to take part in this FUN event.

Field Day Special Report By Alan Kittrell - KE6YKK Field Day 2000 Chairman

It might seem like Field Day is too far away to think about, but now is the time to start making plans. First mark off June 24th and 25th on your calendar. That's the last full weekend in June for those of you who don't keep a calendar of coming events.

During the next month everyone who has been to Field Day before should think about what they enjoyed the most. Volunteer early and we will try to assign you to your 'favorite'. Much of the effort it takes for a successful Field Day is behind the scenes, lining up facilities, setting up equipment, organizing or cooking for our great Saturday food fest. You don't need to be an 'Ace' contest operator to help with Field Day. Please try to keep at least the 24th open and help us make this a BIG event for SBARA.

Our 'philosophy' for the contest part of Field Day will be as before; Turn in a respectable score, but remember that our number one goal is to promote ham radio and to have fun. This year we expect to have a lot more New Generals than in past years, and we are going to try to give everyone a chance to learn something about operating an HF station. We will also be operating the usual complement of VHF/UHF, Satellite, QRP and Ten Meters should be Hot this year. Remember to bring along the rest of your family, Field Day is one time when Anyone can get on the air and see what ham radio is all about. We have several school age hams in the club so don't forget to bring along the kids.

Syd 'QWK is helping organize our Station Operator teams, please contact him to volunteer, or say 'yes' when he calls you.

This year we are going to try a local network to tie our station logging computers together. Rudi 'RLQ will be coordinating this effort. If you can help with the network setup and/or have a spare computer to loan, please contact Rudi.

I want to thank the many of you that have already volunteered to help, we still have lots of work to be done so get in touch. I'm sure I can find a Field Day job for You!

See you all there! 'YKK

BECOME A HAMBASSADOR

Do you have kids in school? Do you know someone in a retirement community? How about a long-distance truck driver? Or senior citizens who travel in their RV? Maybe you belong to another local community services organization? Here's your chance to spread the word about SBARA and ham radio in general. With your help, the Club can arrange for a 'show and tell' for your group.

Contact Rudi
Wiedemann,
SBARA Public In-
formation Officer.
kf6rlq@arrl.net

March Workshop at Ham Radio Outlet

By Tom Chittenden - KF6UIQ

The sign on the door reads, "Your wife called ahead and said you could buy anything in the store."

Being fairly new to Ham radio and with a minimal amount of my own equipment, I immediately perked up when Al Rendon (WT6K) first started talking about an HRO workshop for SBARA members. Al presented it as a "kid in a candy store" approach. Here was an opportunity to go into the store that I've been in many times before and to have the manager's attention somewhat to myself. So many radios, where do I start? I didn't even know what questions to ask, let alone what specific questions about each radio. Knowing I was close to purchasing a mobile rig, I signed up hoping to get some answers. Security in numbers, I would feel safe here.

As March 25 approached, family matters began to get in the way and it was doubtful if I would be able to attend. Last minute negotiations made it possible ONLY if I left the store at 9:30am promptly.

The workshop was from 8:30am to 9:30am, and was specifically for SBARA members only. Once inside, the door was locked so there would be no interruptions from other customers. I generally don't wait in line to open very many stores but the 'crowd' had grown to 15 or 20 by this time. Ken (K1ZKM), the store manager opened the door just slightly early at 8:25am. Ken's demeanor seemed a little on the quick side as he explained he had many things to accomplish before he could open the store to the public. At the door "Club members only!" verification indicated this guy meant business.

Locking the door behind us, Ken moved behind the counter and without hesitation began with many of the handheld transceivers were \$10 off, mobiles were \$20 and HF rigs were \$50 because of a special sale at one of their other stores that day. This made additional work for him to prepare sale signs before his opening. The workshop scheduled that same day was his misfortune and our good fortune.

Ken began on a tale of how he gets many requests for club discounts and because of the way most manufactures are it was difficult for him to discount things without cutting his own throat. He acknowledged that because a large number of SBARA club members patronized his store he would like to offer discounts on some items like accessories. He couldn't give a blanket discount but if questioned he would let you know what type of discount if any was available. These discounts would be available outside of this particular event, but to verify current membership, each club member in standing needed to bring a copy of the current issue of The Ground Plane and ask for him.

Without stopping for breath Ken rolled right into "Are there any questions?" A brief pause filled the air and just as I was about to formulate a question he immediately burst into "GOOD! Let's get on with it." He picked up the first handheld, an Alinco DJ-S11T, "Now this little radio, only \$88, comes in 2 meter or 440 bands..." and away he goes. In what seemed like lightening speed, he went from radio to radio describing good points and bad. If he didn't like something about it, he told you. "Here's a good unit but the keypad is too small for my fingers" he explained on one HT. After each radio, he'd pass the unit through the crowd for a "touchie-feelie" secession. Before I knew it he was onto the Kenwood TH-D7A with VC-H1 video unit and sending pictures across the airwaves. I definitely knew more about handheld radios than when I came in.

"Are there any questions? GOOD! The line forms here to purchase, but be quick because I gotta open the store." My head was spinning from the information overflow. Wait what had I come for? I almost forgot, now's my chance. "I'm trying to decide between this Kenwood and this Yeasu?" I asked pointing out my choices. I'd been looking at a 2 meter/440 mobile rig and had been debating between the Kenwood TM-V7A with the blue screen and the Yeasu FT8100.

(continued *next page*)

March Workshop (contd.)

"Go over there and stand in front of the Kenwood" I did as instructed. "Now stay pointed in that direction and move to the side and tell me what you see." It became quickly apparent that the blue screen was very omni-directional and you needed to be right in front of it in order to view the contents. "Where will you mount that in your vehicle?" he quipped. BINGO! The light went on. That plus the \$20 off for the day and my decision had been made. The time was 9:27 am.

"How quickly can you ring me up?" I knew others were right behind me getting in line. As I walked out the door, I read the sign once again. "Your wife called ahead and said you could buy anything in the store." I thought to myself, "...and she said 'It's a good thing you bought a mobile rig, because you'll be living out of your truck for a while...."

Special thanks to Al Rendon (WT6K) for setting this wonderful opportunity up.

Our "kudos" from SBARA to Ken and his staff at HRO - Sunnyvale for their generous hospitality on March 25th, 2000.

Newark Communications Volunteers - Monthly Meeting Minutes By Robin Kinney - KG6DI

Meeting Minutes from the 3/8/2000 Meeting

- Robin will get a count of the vests and jackets for the application of the patches.
- Recruitment Flier
Elise presented a draft of the tri-panel recruitment flier. It looks great, good job. We agreed to combine amateur radio and GMRS and several suggestions were offered.
- Elise agreed to take the suggestions and create a second draft.

- Robin agreed to make an attempt to download a list of GMRS operators from the FCC webpage.
- We agreed the best letterhead (also presented by Elise) was the top logo but with Newark Emergency Communications added.
- Robin agreed to present the first draft to Sgt. Lewis to get input including such issues of the Sgt.'s name and phone number.
- There was general interest in repeating a training session provided by PG&E.
- Elise demonstrated a 2m / 70cm emergency antenna.
- Thanks to Will for exchanging the defective mag-mount antenna.
- Robin presented awareness training of psychological impacts of a disaster including the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing.

Late Breaking New

- Mike Fung of the Fremont Communications Volunteers (formerly a PG&E employee) was contacted regarding the PG&E training. He said he would investigate. A joint training session between the two groups was suggested.
- Sgt. Lewis liked the recruitment flier. He said it was ok to include his name and phone number.
- The Sgt. obtained authorization for us to use the briefing room for meetings. The training room (formerly EOC) is also currently available.
- The only GMRS database on the FCC webpage is included within the database of all FCC granted licenses and is over 4Gb. We need a volunteer to continue this task.
- We have 19 vests and 14 jackets.
- Sgt. Lewis would like several patches, if we can spare them.
- We have \$1000 in the Newark Communications Volunteers budget.
- The City is ready to proceed with processing our photo IDs. Human Resources would like as many of us as possible to come in on a weekday and have our photo taken.

Agenda for the April 12th Meeting

- The April 12th meeting will be in the Police Department Briefing Room.
- Determine what day is best to have photos taken for the IDs.
- Finalize the copy for the recruitment flier.
- Develop a plan to determine a list of names & addresses of Newark GMRS operators.
- Develop a plan to determine a list of names and addresses of Newark GMRS operators.

May 2000 SBARA Meeting Program

Nils Holmes (N1LS) of Globalstar will be describing the Globalstar LEO (Low Earth Orbit) satellite phone service. This presentation will give a real life application of satellites in communications giving a glimpse of what the future has in store for us. Mark your calendar for May 17th to come and hear Nils Holmes.

May Workshop: Emergency Communica- tions

Plan to attend Pal Carlin's dynamic workshop on Emergency Communications. Paul has an interesting presentation and hands on session planned for the Saturday May 20th workshop at the Fremont Community Center in Central Park. Time: 2:00 to 4:00PM in the afternoon.

Leadership Team 2000 Reports

Membership Director

Club membership is growing! Not as dramatically as my predictions at the first of the year, but nevertheless we are getting bigger; *and better*.

A quick look at the figures to date: We have eleven courtesy members, public officials and the like. We have a bigger than ever group of family memberships, with twenty eight in that category. We are proud to have two long term honorary members in the club.

We have three "new license" members, this should be picking up with the number of new hams in the area. Regular members account for thirty seven, and seniors membership has gone up to thirteen!

Participation in club events has been very good so far this year, which the organizers of SBARA special projects appreciate. Thanks for your great support.

And now for the bad part. It's April by the time you read this, and many of you have not yet paid your dues for the year 2000. Please try to remember to do this, dues are an important source of revenue for the club. I won't be running any specials or discounts for paying late - so there's no need to wait any longer.

Samuel Morse-Inventor

Samuel Finley Breese Morse was born on April 27, 1791, in Charlestown, just outside of Boston, Massachusetts. He was the son of Jedidiah Morse, a pastor who was as well known for his geography as Noah Webster, a friend of the family, was known for his dictionaries.

In 1832, while returning on the ship Sully from another period of art study in Europe, Morse heard a conversation about the newly discovered electromagnet and conceived of the idea of an electric telegraph. He mistakenly thought that the idea of such a telegraph was new, thus helping to give him the impetus to push the idea forward.

With the aid of his new partners, Morse

You can get a form to send in with your dues at the SBARA web site; www.qsl.net/sbara or email me at kittrell@netgate.net and I will get you whatever it takes to send in your money. We will also be glad to collect dues at any meeting. See Ted Cameron for that, and please try to fill out a form ahead of time.

Thanks for the great co-operation so far, see you at the next club event!

Alan Kittrell KE6YKK

Treasurer

Total cash assets 2/27/2000: \$2881.06

Income since then: \$172.07

Expenses: None

Current balance 3/31/2000: \$3053.13

Projected for April: Income \$60, expenses \$200.

By: Ted - N6BFO

applied for a patent for his new telegraph in 1837, which he described as including a dot and dash code to represent numbers, a dictionary to turn the numbers into words and a set of sawtooth type for sending signals. Morse, discouraged with his art career, was giving nearly all his time to the telegraph.

After Morse directed the wires to be set on poles instead, the work advanced well, and by May 1844, the first inter-city electromagnetic telegraph line in the world was ready. Then, from the Capitol building in Washington, Morse sent a Biblical quotation as the first formal message on the line to Baltimore, a message that revealed his own sense of wonder that God had chosen him to reveal the use of electricity to man: "What Hath God Wrought!"

Morse died in New York City on April 2, 1872, at the age of 81.

Biography of Samuel F. B. Morse, adapted from The American Leonardo, a Life of Samuel F. B. Morse and from www.morsehistoricsite.org Interesting History of Samuel Morse.

SECRETARY

The March 15, 2000 meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm. Attending were President Rudi Wiedemann (KF6RLQ), VP Alan Kittrell (KE6YKK), Secretary Elise Ciruolo (KF6TQB), Treasurer Ted Cameron (N6BFO), Programs Facilitator Al Rendon (WT6K) and 30 members and guests.

Rudi requested donations for the resource collection. Dave Hobbs (KE6RQB) donated a J-pole antenna.

Members and guests were reminded that we have a Quick Reference Card available for sale at \$1 donation each, available at the break.

There were several license upgrades including: Lloyd Hartshorn (N6DOK) to Extra, Andy Mascsak (WD6CJK) to General, Steve Bassett (KQ6VH) to Extra, Kevin Kraw (KF6BJK) to Extra, Harry Lau (KF6QAK) to General, and Gene Arrillaga (KF6ZYD) to General.

DX contacts included Romania on 20 meters by Ted Cameron; Brunei, Switzerland and Cuba on 10 meters by Steve Bassett, a private jet flying at 38,000 feet on 10 meters by James Lee (N1DDK); and a maritime marine mobile in the Caribbean islands by Rudi Wiedemann which included a contact with the President of the Grenada Ham Radio Club.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 19th at 7:30pm, and the next Board meeting will be at Rudi's house on March 21st.

Organizational Reports:

James Lee announced that FARTS will be having a brunch on Sunday April 2nd at 9:30am at the Fremont Elks Lodge on Farwell. RSVP James.

Ray Wong (KE6OGM) announced a Fremont / Union City CERT drill on April 29th which will include ham operators.

Jim Wood (KE6IVA) was contacted by a Fremont official to see if SBARA could assist an Irvington resident in tracking down the source of television interference he is having on Ch 2, 4 and 5 between 9:00am and 11:00 pm. Mike Fung agreed to help.

Contributions and suggestions for the SBARA website (www.qsl.net/sbara) were solicited, and should be sent to Tony Flusche (AB6BR) at tonysf@home.com

It was again requested that members take the Ground Plane electronically as it saves the Club about 95 cents per copy each month, which is slightly less than an individual's annual dues.

Membership: New roster will be out in two months. Those who have not yet paid their dues will be left off the new roster.

Steve Bassett generously delivered Lloyd Hartshorn's ARRL Friendship Award, which was presented by President Rudi Wiedemann.

Future Programs: Al Rendon (WT6K) announced a workshop to be held on March 25th at HRO in Sunnyvale on Saturday morning at 8:30am.

The April meeting will include a program by Syd Furman (W6QWK) on T-hunting. Bring your HT, fresh batteries and a flashlight. Two transmitters will be hidden.

May meeting will be a program on Low Earth Orbiting Satellites (LEOS).

May workshop will be on Emergency Communications by Paul Carlin (KE6NVU).

June meeting will be a workshop on 'getting the most out of Field Day' by Alan Kittrell.

In July or August, Ron Ross will present a program on his activities in Antarctica.

Elmer Program: We currently have about 12 individuals willing to be Elmers. So if you are a new or upgrading ham looking for some help, let Membership Director Alan Kittrell know and he'll link you up with the right Elmer.

William Morse won the 50/50 drawing.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm

2000 SBARA Meeting Program and Workshop Schedule

Month	Meeting Program	Workshop
January	BUILDING A PORTABLE EMERGENCY GROUND PLANE ANTENNA DATE: JANUARY 19 th TIME: 7:30PM LOC: COMMUNITY CTR	NEW HAM ORIENTATION CLINIC DATE: JANUARY 26 th TIME: 9:00AM LOC: HICKORY PIT RESTAURANT
February	STANFORD SATELLITE PROGRAM- PROFESSOR ROBERT TWIGGS DATE: FEBRUARY 16 th TIME: 7:30PM LOC: COMMUNITY CTR	BUILDING YOUR OWN PORTABLE GROUND PLANE ANTENNA DATE: FEBRUARY 26 th TIME: 9:30AM TO NOON LOC: COMMUNITY CTR
March	AUTOMATIC POSITION REPORTING SYSTEM (APRS) – PAUL CARLIN KE6NVU DATE: MARCH 15 th TIME: 7:30PM LOC: COMMUNITY CTR	HRO SUNNYVALE WORKSHOP DATE: MARCH 25 TH TIME: 8:30AM LOC: HRO SUNNYVALE
April	INTRODUCTION TO TRANSMITTER HUNTING – SYD FURMAN W6QWK DATE: APRIL 19 th TIME: 7:30PM LOC: COMMUNITY CTR	None currently scheduled. WORKSHOP at Hickory Pit. No date set.
May	GLOBALSTAR (LEO SATELLITE PHONE SERVICE) – NILS HOLMES N1LS DATE: MAY 17 th TIME: 7:30PM LOC: COMMUNITY CTR	EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP – KE6NVU DATE: MAY 20 th TIME: 2:00PM TO 4:00PM LOC: COMMUNITY CTR
June	FIELD DAY TUTORIAL, LOGING, OP- ERATING AND SETUP – ALAN KE6YYK DATE: JUNE 21 st TIME: 7:30PM LOC: COMMUNITY CTR	SBARA FIELD DAY 2000 DATE: JUNE 24 – 25 TH TIME: START 24 TH 7:00AM POTLUCK DINNER 5:00PM LOC: LAKE ELIZABETH
July	RON ROSS'S TRIP TO ANARTICA WITH HIS AMATEUR RADIO WEATHER STATION. DATE: JULY 19 TH TIME: 7:30PM LOC: COMMUNITY CTR	None currently scheduled.
August		None currently scheduled.
September		None currently scheduled.
October		None currently scheduled.
November		None currently scheduled.
December	NO MEETING IN DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS

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Dual Bands at a Single Band Price!

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- 70 memories
- Great audio
- CTCSS encode/decode
- Auto repeater

IC-207H Dual Band Mobile

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SBARA Groundplane

SBARA Leadership 2000 Officers

President

Rudi Wiedemann – KF6RLQ
kf6rlq@arrl.net
(H) 510-792-2252
(C) 408-504-8266

Vice President

Alan Kittrell – KE6YKK
kittrell@netgate.net
(H) 510-656-5849

Treasurer

Ted Cameron – W6BFO
bfoted@aol.com
(H) 510-656-1913

Programs Facilitator

Al Rendon – WT6K
wt6k@arrl.net
(H) 510-656-2427

Photographer

Sid Jones - KF6YXK
(H) 408-263-6647
sidjones@ricochet.net

WebMaster

Tony Flusche - AB6BR
tonysf@home.com
(H) 510-247-3225

Secretary

Elise Ciralo – KF6TQB
theciralos@compuserve.com
(H) 510-796-3916

Newsletter Editor

Bill Artelt – WB9YVM
wizard@home.com
(H) 510-794-4669

"T-Hunting" with SBARA

Grab those flashlights,
signal strength meters
rotatable "quad" an-
tennas and see if you
can "out-fox" the Fox!
The one that finds the
Fox buys the first round!
Then for some pizza and
beer. Life is tough....

On The Bands...

Work any interesting
contacts on the Low
Bands?

10 Meters is **HOT**